



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

March 14, 2012 – Regular Meeting – 1:00 PM

Turkey Run State Park Inn

8102 E Park Rd Marshall, IN

Pres. - John Gettinger

V. Pres. – Dave Hacker

Treasurer – Robert Shepherd Secretary – Dale Brier

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Allen County - Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Robert Shepherd
Gibson County - William Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County - Phil Cox (alternate)
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Lucky Neiburger
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Vigo County - Kara Kish
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County - Louise Jewell
Wells County - Scott Elzey
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

INDOT – Joe Lewien
INDOT – Bill Smith

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp - DNR Nature Preserves
Bob Bronson – DNR Outdoor Recreation

Guests:

Thomas Gosnell - Vermillion Co (alternate)
Don Jewell – Warren County
Jeff Kiefer – USFWS
Sara Peel - WREC
Keith Poole -Wabash County (alternate)
Rae Schnapp - Tippecanoe County (alternate)

Voting Members Absent:

Knox County - Troy Hinkle

Counties not participating

Jay County

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce proxies, Open Agenda

President John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and asked for proxies, there were none because all but one county was present. Dale announced that Jeff Keifer was here from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to give a presentation.

Jeff Keifer announced that this year is the 109th Anniversary of the US Wildlife Refuge. It was started in 1903 to protect pelicans and birds that were targeted. The America's Great Outdoors is a new project in which the Wabash River is a part of. Their goals are to connect, serve, and collaborate. Their goals are:

1. They want to connect youth to the outdoors once again.
2. Funding for Federal land acquisition
3. Target large landscapes
4. Enhance rivers and waterways

5. Make federal government more effective
6. Improve habitat

There are two projects for each state; the two in Indiana are the Wabash River Healthy River Initiative (HRI), and Lake Michigan Water Trails. Field level people are to be the liaison's to the program.

Approval of Minutes

Ralph Weinzapfel made a motion to approve the January 12 minutes with a second from Bill K., Ron Zartman noted a correction was needed; Kara's name was misspelled on the first paragraph on the last page. The motion carried with corrections.

President's Report

John reported that he had made several trips to attend meetings and do business on behalf of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC). He attended the two Banks of Wabash Meetings, attended Conservation Day in Indianapolis where Keith Ruble was presented with an award, was interviewed for a story in the Sullivan Daily newspaper, attended an HRI meeting in Indianapolis, and numerous other meeting with WRHCC members. John was very busy for the last two months.

Finance Report

Dale B. distributed the finance report (see attached). As of March 12, 2012, there is a balance of \$372,549.69 in the Corridor fund. The revenue to the fund is approximately \$150,000-\$175,000 per year. Grant administration expenses will be under salaries and wages because it is mostly staff time. Dale also announced that all members need to see him after the meeting to get the paperwork done for their travel vouchers.

Budget Report

Dave Hacker presented the Proposed Budget Report for 2012 (see attached). Arin then moved to accept the budget report with a second from Ken. Motion carried. John then said that a new treasurer needed to be elected, the Commission rules allow the president to appoint the position. John had spoken with Robert Shepard about the position. Louise made the motion to elect Robert with a second from Ralph, motion carried. John mentioned that he would pick up the laptop from Troy Hinkle that Chase Ellis had used while treasurer.

Grants

Bob Bronson said that the new grant manual should be available within the next month. The extra point for projects in the HRI area was tabled at the last meeting, so discussion was reopened. It would add one point of a total of 50 points. This would only affect three counties, so much discussion followed. Louise then made the motion to allow for the extra point for the Healthy Rivers Initiative projects, followed by a second from Dave. A vote was then taken to accept the grant manual as written with the point for HRI, twelve members were in favor of the extra point given and six were opposed. The motion carried. It was mentioned that it would be very helpful if each member had a copy of the manual. Bob assured everyone that once it is final, we would let them know it can be downloaded. The website was then discussed and how easy or complicated it might be to get to the Grants page. The DNR page has all the grants information; there is no information on the WRHCC webpage. Kara has volunteered to help recreate a user friendlier WRHCC website.

Legislative

Several members attended Conservation Day at the Statehouse. Keith Ruble was one of the awardees.

Water Trails

Dale asked everyone to have maps corrected by the May meeting. Some that are listed on the current map are not actually public access sites. The group had a discussion on the different types of river access sites. Dale explained the DNR only lists public access sites that have designated parking, are marked with signs, and have an organization or government agency that maintains it for river use. The other type is just where public land abuts the river, such as inside a park or at a bridge but have no improvements or maintenance. Arin made a motion that the WHRCC adopt the DNR definition of access sites and Kara seconded the motion. Searching for a definition of an access point was discussed at length. We do not want to be in a situation where we make new maps and the access sites do not mean the same thing. Some in the group were not willing to use the DNR definition; they want to list the other public sites. The group could not come up with a system for listing the other sites; it would be personal choices from individuals in the counties and would not be consistent. We all need to be on the same page as to what a true access site really is. Arin said she had sites listed on the map that were too steep to be practical and these are some of the issues that need to be addressed. A vote was taken on the motion and it was not carried. Lucky then suggested that a committee be appointed to address the issue of access points. He then made a motion with Bob giving the second. Motion carried. Arin will chair the committee; Rae will host a meeting in Lafayette. Dale B., Dave H., Rae S. and Keith P. agreed to serve on the committee. Scott then mentioned that we want to make the standards so the map is consistent. The standards need to be set, and the map should be completed by September. Any delays could cause problems with grant rating. Since water trails, was one of Ron James' passions it was mentioned at the meeting that he was in the hospital and not doing very well. Rae purchased a card for all members to sign and sent it to Ron.

Signage

Members from INDOT were present at the meeting. They spoke about how signs and placement are addressed at INDOT. They have specifications for everything. They have looked at what Ken E. had sent them. With all of the discussion that took place it was decided that a committee would need to be formed. Dave H. made the motion to form a committee to work with INDOT on signage with a second from Larry S. Motion passed. Ken will chair the committee and pick his committee members.

Banks of the Wabash

Dr. Rae Schnapp is the president of the Banks of the Wabash. April 21st is the DeTrash the Wabash in the Lafayette area with a rain date of April 28. April 18th is their annual meeting. Kara asked if the Commission was a member of BOW, Dale responded yes, the WRHCC was a corporate member at \$500.00 level.

Old Business

Newport Chemical Depot Land "Re-Use"

John reported that they are hoping to have a river camp a little further on down the river. Larry said that once you pass the levy that you are on private property.

River Currents

No report.

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016

The Bicentennial Nature Trust site is looking for projects. The money is 50/50 match. They are looking for land acquisition projects. Their goal is to preserve more land around the state. The Indiana Bicentennial in 2016 is something that the Commission is very interested in. The WRHCC would like to have a presence in the planning and would like to appoint Rae to do that. Phil Cox made the motion that Rae should be part of the 2016 Bicentennial planning group, with a second from Ralph. The motion carried.

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs (Cass County)

Being a new member, Arin did not have a report. Dave H. explained that there are a whole series of signs for the roads and river in the corridor.

Bridges and Railing

No report.

New Business

Retreat Update

John was pleased by the attendance and discussion that had taken place at the retreat. Because almost everyone attended the retreat, there was no reason to go over it again.

River Cleanups for 2012

Mike announced that the next cleanup is July 28 in Wabash. There is also one in Terre Haute on April 15, Lafayette and Peru on April 21.

2012 Citizen Corridor Award

The commission should be thinking about whom they want to nominate for the award, recently it has gone to members, Ron James and Lucky Neiburger. John said that we really should start thinking about the next recipient. He asked that everyone think about it and maybe give some suggestions at the next meeting or two.

Treasurer Appointment

Bob Shepherd was appointed Treasurer.

Future Meeting Locations

Future meeting locations will be:

May 9 – The meeting will be in New Harmony with Ralph Weinzapfel as host.

July 11 – Louise Jewell will host it at her house south of Lafayette.

September 12 - it will be held in Carroll County and George Mears will host.

Announcements and General Reminders/Discussion

Upcoming committee meetings

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is hosting a trip on the Wabash River to raise awareness and celebrate the two-year anniversary of the HRI. The trip will have elected officials present and powered boat trip up stream in Vigo County. The TNC is looking for sponsorships, \$500 is what they hope to receive from the WRHCC. Dave then made the motion for a sponsorship for the River Float with a second from Ken. Motion carried. Dale told the commission members if they

want to attend that they would be paid for their mileage. Dale will let everyone know the date when it is set.

An Executive Committee meeting needs to be scheduled.

Final Comments

Solfest at Fox Island is May 5 & 6. Earth Day is right around the corner. Louise then commented that it had been a very good meeting.

Adjournment

Arin made the motion with a second from Kara at 3:30 PM.

Wabash River Heritage Corridor	48686	
Beginning Balance, July 1, 2011	272,539.28	
Revenues to date	117,907.37	
Expenditures to date	(17,896.96)	
Balance in fund	372,549.69	
As of March 8, 2012		
	Expenses	Revenue
431401 AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	0	117,907.37
510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	8,424.05	0
515000 Fringe	3264.69	0
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	256	0
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	97.17	0
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	3,367.76	0
595120 InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	52	0
595130 InState Travel - Lodging	204.6	0
595170 InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	14	0
599026 AdmOp-Dues & Subscriptions	500	0
599116 AdmOp-Event Sponsor	1,500.00	0
659410 Postage	216.69	0
	<hr/> 17,896.96	<hr/> 117,907.37

